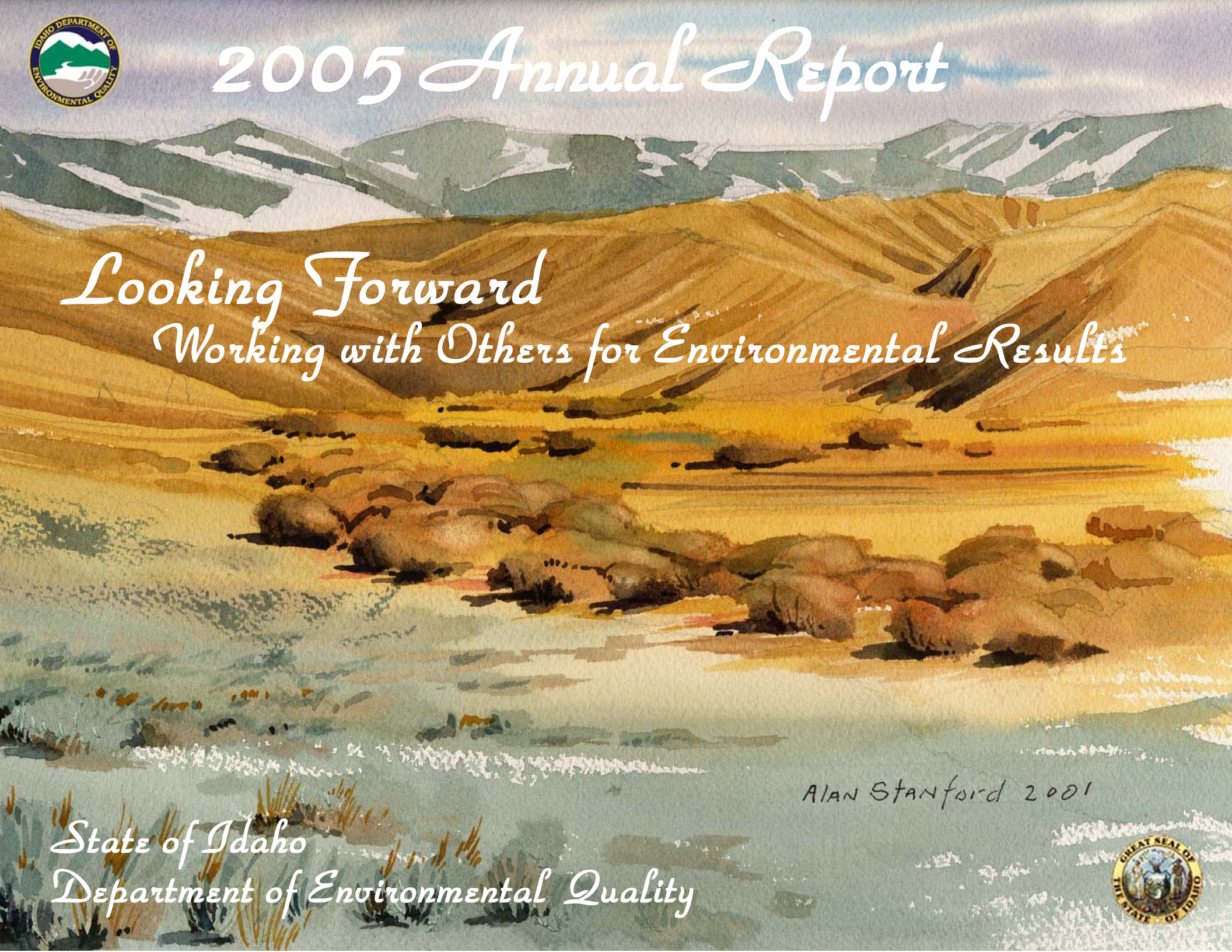
2005 Annual Report



State of Idaho
Department of Environmental Quality

Director's Message

Dear Reader:

Before getting too involved in looking forward, I would like to start by taking a moment to reflect back on the past year. The agency has undergone some changes in administration from the program and regional levels to the director's office.

In my assessment of the agency's performance over the past year, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been working in a way that reflects our understanding that environmental issues in Idaho are changing. The problems of the past brought about effective solutions and tools, but the problems of today need a different approach. Today, our pollution sources are much more difficult to address and not as easily identified. Our long term success will be dependent on developing cost-effective solutions for diverse groups of sources, forming meaningful partnerships with up-front communication and collaboration.

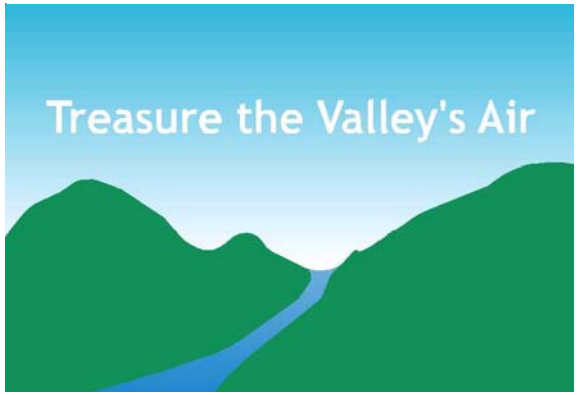
I believe the bottom line is that we all want to know our efforts are going to result in true environmental benefits that are measurable. This means we must focus on outcome-based problem solving. As we recognize more and more the diverse sources of environmental impacts, we also understand that we must combine our limited resources with our partners in order to be truly effective.

With that said, we will continue to be more productive in both a leading and a supporting role, leveraging human and financial resources with our partners, while focusing on environmental outcomes.

Toni Hardesty
Director

Table of Contents

Treasure the Valley's Air



Bringing Together Idaho's Best to Support Air Quality in the Treasure Valley

Treasure the Valley's Air is a coalition of local partners working together to implement community-based projects to improve and protect air quality in the Treasure Valley. Partnerships are voluntary and dynamic and can include any mix of businesses, government agencies, organizations, and individuals. Under the *Treasure the Valley's Air* concept, partners join together to share expertise and leverage resources to design, carry out, and promote air quality improvement projects throughout the valley.

A public service announcement about *Treasure the Valley's Air,* featuring mayors from across the valley, was televised throughout the summer. This effort demonstrated the elected officials' commitment to clean air and collaborative, creative relationships.

Clean Air Projects

- ✓ An Air Pollution Response Plan was developed to notify the community when air quality is deteriorating. The notification includes alert messages posted on the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) highway message boards, and media involvement.
- ✓ *Clean Air Zone Idaho* is a statewide program that is currently being implemented in the Treasure Valley. For more information, see "Clean Air for Kids in Idaho" on page 4.

Commitment to clean air through partnerships

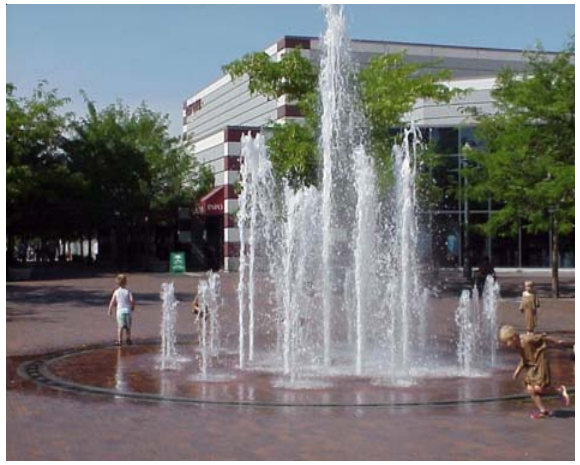
- ✓ The Treasure Valley Clean Cities Coalition is a partnership of the City of Boise, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ/Department), Idaho Energy Division, Idaho Farm Bureau, Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS), Idaho Power, Intermountain Gas, General Services Administration, Idaho National Guard, Boise State University, Browning-Ferris Industries, Simplot, Micron, ITD, Ada County Highway District, United Oil, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, and ValleyRide. The coalition was created to support the use of alternative fuels and to further develop an alternative fuel infrastructure across the Treasure Valley.
- ✓ *Treasure the Valley's Air* outreach program was established to increase awareness of air pollution in the valley and educate the community on what it can do to reduce air pollution. Public service announcements air throughout the year on topics such as no-idling zones, reducing pollution, ozone awareness, and other air pollution topics. The group, also, produces newspaper inserts and promotional items, (such as bumper stickers) and sponsors educational events.
- ✓ An E85 fuel pump in downtown Boise, open to anyone with a flexible fuel vehicle, has been secured through the collective efforts of DEQ, ITD, Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Idaho Farm Bureau, Ada County Highway District, COMPASS, City of Boise, and the Governor's office.

- ✓ The Discovery Center of Idaho's *Annual Alternative Fuels* event provides booths, information, and volunteer time to support the effort. The first planning meeting for the next event is scheduled for October, 2005.
- ✓ The *Agricultural Diesel Retrofit Program* is a statewide program being implemented in the Treasure Valley. For more information see "Clear the Air - Agricultural Diesel Engine Retrofits" on page 8.
- ✓ During the summer of 2004, local volunteers helped conduct a "saturation study" for ozone throughout the valley. Ozone is formed when hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxide pollution from vehicles, industries, and other sources react in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. It is a principle component of ground-level smog and can damage lung tissue. In 2000, population in the Treasure Valley increased to a level requiring mandatory monitoring of ozone at both one and eight-hour intervals. Monitors in Ada and Canyon Counties collected ozone samples during July and August. Sites were established in Eagle, Meridian, Nampa, Caldwell, Kuna, the Boise Airport, Southeast Boise, the Warm Springs District, the Boise Foothills, and 15 miles southeast of Boise. The volunteers collected samples at each site, two days each week, and delivered them to a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) laboratory for analysis.

  Data from this study will be evaluated to identify the location(s) in the Treasure Valley with the highest ozone concentrations and provide validation for the current and potential future sitings of ozone monitors across the valley.
- ✓ A springtime lawn mower rebate program for the Treasure Valley is in the planning stages. Residents will be able to turn in their older, higher-emission lawn mowers for a price reduction on cleaner electric models that emit less air pollution.

Using a pre-1998 lawn mower for one hour causes as many ozone-creating chemicals to go into the air as would a 1998 car driven from Reno to Seattle!

Partners join together to share expertise and leverage resources to design, carry out, and promote air quality improvement projects throughout the valley



Revitalizing Communities

Brownfield Program Aids in Cleanup

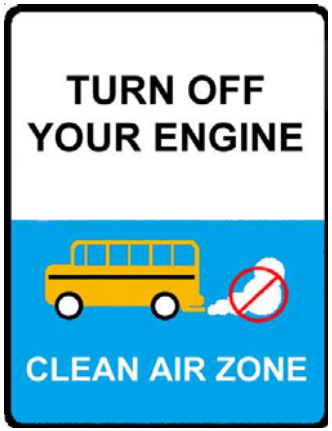
The *Brownfield Revitalization Program* provides an avenue for returning contaminated property to productive use. A Brownfield assessment is conducted when a lack of environmental information on actual or perceived contamination complicates the opportunity for property redevelopment or reuse. This site assessment program provides the data necessary to evaluate the potential risk and cost of site remediation. During the past year, over 28 property assessments were conducted for local communities. In addition, seven "Targeted Brownfield Assessments" were conducted by EPA. These assessments provide information to local governments and economic development agencies and facilitate community development goals.

A total of $500,000 was spent on Brownfield assessments during the past year. In addition, local governments secured $580,000 in grant funds to assess and/or cleanup four Brownfield sites.

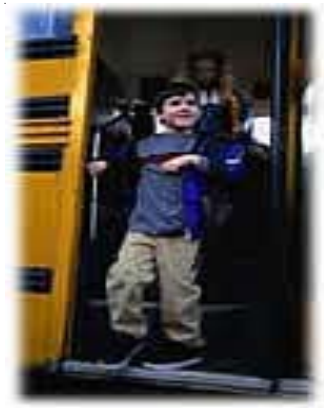
DEQ and EPA conducted two Brownfield workshops attended by 80 local government planning and economic development officials. A standardized Risk Evaluation Manual was provided to those conducting site assessments. Two workshops trained 52 local consultants to use the risk-based approach.

Returning contaminated property to productive use and facilitate community development goals

Clean Air for Kids in Idaho



No Idling Zones



According to the EPA, if a school bus fleet has 50 buses and each bus reduced idling time by 30 minutes a day, at $2/ per gallon of diesel, the fleet would save $4500 a school year.

Initiated in 2004, *Clean Air Zone Idaho* is a voluntary program aimed at reducing school children's exposure to vehicle emissions. The program discourages idling of school buses and other vehicles, encourages the use of alternative fuels, and helps schools get funding for bus maintenance and retrofitting.

Did you know:

1. In Idaho, approximately 2,578 buses transport over 110,000 students each year.
2. in the United States, Approximately 600,000 school buses transport 24 million students to schools each day .
3. Every year, children in the United States spend 3 billion hours on school buses.
4. A 30-minute ride to and from school results in 80 hours per school year or 90 full 24-hour days over the 12 years from kindergarten through 12th grade.
5. Nearly 99% of the school buses in the United States have diesel engines.

Problem:

Diesel exhaust aggravates asthma and bronchitis and exacerbates allergies. Although breathing diesel exhaust may not measurably impair lung function in adults, recent studies demonstrate that diesel pollution does impair development of children's lungs. Other studies have shown that children are exposed to diesel exhaust levels inside school buses that are as much as four times higher than in nearby vehicles. Bus idling and lined up can increase the concentrations of particulate matter both inside school buses and inside nearby buildings.

Goals of the *Anti-Idling Program* are:

Clean Air Zone: To implement a voluntary no idling program at schools; and

Safe and Clean: To assist school districts and fleet managers by providing assistance in obtaining grant funding for activities such as maintenance, diesel retrofits, and school bus purchasing.

Helping to Protect Public Health

Air Quality Through Smoke Management

Fire is used by the agriculture and forest management industries to accomplish land management objectives. Smoke generated from these fires can impact Idaho citizens if conditions are not right for burning.

Over the past few years, smoke management in Idaho has advanced significantly. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) created a rule for managing the smoke from crop residue disposal. DEQ has expanded its air quality monitoring program and conducts special monitoring during burn seasons. DEQ regional offices are working with other agencies on real-time smoke impact modeling. These efforts allow for the selection of optimal times for burning while maintaining Idaho's air quality. ISDA is responsible for regulating open burning of crop residue and determining whether meteorological and air quality conditions are favorable for burning. ISDA is, also, responsible for training agricultural burners to use proper crop disposal techniques aimed at reducing smoke impacts.

Idaho land managers who conduct prescribed burns participate in a bi-state smoke management program with Montana. The program is managed by the Montana/Idaho State Airshed Group, which was formed to limit the impacts of smoke generated from necessary forest and rangeland burning.

Open fires on any forest or range land during the closed fire season, generally May 10 through October 20, require a permit from the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). In some areas, this requirement may be in effect all year. Local fire departments or districts have more stringent local ordinances which may apply. The Idaho Forest Practices Act, enforced by IDL, requires slash created by forest harvesting practices on state and private lands to be treated. The most common treatment technique involves burning the slash, or debris, during periods of low fire danger.

The Department is responsible for protecting public health from the adverse effects of air pollution. DEQ's role is to ensure that air quality in areas where crops are burned does not violate state and federal air quality health-based standards. To fulfill this role, DEQ closely monitors the levels of pollutants in the air and works cooperatively with ISDA, IDL, agricultural industry representatives, growers, and others to minimize the health impacts of smoke from agricultural and prescribed burning. If air pollution exceeds health standards, health advisories and burn bans may be issued.

Smoke will be managed by collaborating with others to build the necessary partnerships and create cutting-edge tools while meeting the practical needs of Idaho's citizens and industries. Primarily, DEQ will work with ISDA to strengthen the program in southern Idaho and with small forest burners to implement a voluntary program. Additional programs need to be developed to address other sources of open burning that currently do not fall under a smoke management program.

Managing Common Airsheds

Defining problems through monitoring assistance

Idaho and Utah Working Together

Idaho and Utah are working together to manage the shared Cache Valley Airshed that runs from Logan, Utah, north to include Franklin and Preston, Idaho. Utah has documented exceedances of the $PM_{2.5}$ National Ambient Air Quality Standard numerous times over the past few years. These exceedances do not yet constitute an actual violation of the standard. However, the danger of a violation is real if weather and pollution conditions continue in similar patterns. Sources of the pollutants causing the exceedances appear to be auto emissions combined with ammonia emissions from agricultural sources. If a standards violation does occur, both states will receive a nonattainment designation.

Monitoring will be installed in either Franklin or Preston this winter to define and document the problem. Utah public agencies are making excellent efforts to fully measure and understand the problem in Utah and have instituted control measures in Logan.

Communities Develop Management Plan

Cooperation develops effective solutions

Targeting Nitrates in Ground Water

The ground water quality management plans for Twin Falls and Cassia counties, and the city of Weiser focus on maintaining local ground water resources and providing solutions to existing and potential ground water quality problems. The plans provide specific recommendations for ground water protection and management and technical information to justify the recommendations based on the best available information.

In Weiser, an area ground water quality advisory committee developed a management plan that includes voluntary measures to reduce nitrate levels detected in ground water. Over the past several years, nitrate levels in the ground water that are above safe drinking water standards have been found.

In 2003, the committee completed a plan to reduce nitrate contamination of the aquifer and has begun educating the public on ways to voluntarily reduce nitrate contamination. The plan details potential sources of nitrate contamination and suggests how these contaminants can be minimized. The committee worked with local groups to develop management practices that will reduce contamination. Over the next several years, work will continue with the Weiser community to monitor the management plan's effectiveness.

Citizens Working Together

Partnerships are a key to effectively managing environmental problems

Environmental Improvement in Blaine County Through Cooperation

Partnerships help build a climate of cooperation and focus on solutions that are often more effective and efficient than broad-sweeping regulations. This approach provides for greater local initiative, responsiveness, control, and wider acceptance. Blaine County's strong leadership and involved communities have made preserving and protecting the quality of ground and surface water a priority. DEQ is working with Blaine County communities and advisory committees to address environmental pressures through monitoring and protecting drinking water, assigning load limits to pollutant contributors, and implementing nonpoint source pollution reduction projects.

Drinking water systems in the Big Wood River Valley share a shallow aquifer with high vulnerability to contamination. Population growth and a reliance on sewer septic systems and private wells have increased the potential for drinking water contamination. County officials helped develop a plan to monitor and protect drinking water in cities within Blaine County. In 2002, monitoring was begun in order to document the effects of rapid growth and rural subdivisions on drinking water sources. Three years of testing 40 wells located in high-growth areas have shown minimal levels of nitrates and no significant levels of other contaminants.

In 2004, the city of Hailey secured a $2,400,000 State Revolving Fund loan to facilitate the construction of a new drinking water storage reservoir and associated distribution lines.

Multiple jurisdictions in the county worked together to develop source water protection measures, find possible funding sources for implementation, and identify challenges to implement a unified county drinking water protection plan. County commissioners, public water suppliers, the local health district, businesses, educators, non-governmental organizations, state agencies, and the public then created a planning team to integrate individual drinking water system protection plans into one county-wide plan. Through combined federal, state, and local efforts, Blaine County became the first in Idaho to develop a county drinking water protection plan. The *Blaine County Drinking Water Protection Plan* was finalized in July of 2004. The recommendations are now being implemented and include the development of additional individual drinking water system protection plans and information on development assistance and technical resource availability.

In combination with ground water management, the county helps protect surface water quality by assisting in developing and implementing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). The Wood River Watershed Advisory Group, one of about 90 local advisory groups in the state, provided assistance in developing a TMDL for the Big Wood River. The watershed advisory group (WAG) gives citizens an opportunity to provide input in developing the TMDL and leadership in implementing management plans. Per Idaho Code, Chapter 36, §39-3615, "…members of each watershed advisory group shall be representative of the industries and interests affected by the management of that watershed, along with representatives of local government and the land managing or regulatory agencies with an interest in the management of that watershed and the quality of the water bodies within it…."

Currently, the Wood River Land Trust, a local non-profit organization, is partnering with the city of Hailey to sponsor two water quality improvement projects. The *Hailey Big Wood River Improvement Project* and the *Croy Bridge Abutment Removal and Restoration Project* will enhance water quality by preventing sediment and silt pollution from entering the river system.

Leaders and residents of Blaine County recognize that partnerships are a key to effectively managing their watershed. Through shared commitment and investment by local, state, and federal entities, available resources and organizational capacity are leveraged to achieve commonly held goals. Blaine County continues to be environmentally proactive and has plans for future activities.

In 2004-2005, Blaine County will take advantage of the federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This voluntary conservation program from the United States Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service is a cost share and incentive program encouraging farmers to adopt best land management practices. EQIP is helping facilitate TMDL implementation on the Big Wood and Little Wood Rivers that run through Blaine and Camas counties. To optimize environmental benefits, the cost of 15 projects will be shared.

Partnerships are a key to effectively managing their watershed

Clear the Air

Agricultural Diesel Engine Retrofits

Funding is being pursued for an agricultural diesel engine replacement program targeted at replacing older, higher-polluting diesel engines with newer, cleaner burning engines. The retrofits will be at no cost to the participating agricultural producer. DEQ will work with the Idaho Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations to locate participants for this program.

Bring together people and resources

Improving Air Quality

Portneuf Valley's Cooperative Efforts

The Portneuf Valley PM_{10} State Implementation Plan (SIP) has been finalized due to the accomplishments of a variety of partners from the state and local communities. The maintenance plan is the culmination of the efforts of several community organizations to reduce particulate matter (PM_{10}) to acceptable levels and redesignate the airshed to attainment status. Proactive air quality management in the Portneuf Valley has reduced air pollution and improved the quality of life in the community. It is important to note that the Portneuf Valley has maintained the standard since December 31, 1996, with the last recorded violation occurring in 1993.

PM_{10} is small airborne particles that are ten micros in diameter or smaller. PM_{10} can remain airborne for weeks and when inhaled can travel easily to deep parts of the lungs. These particles may remain there, causing respiratory illness, lung damage, and even premature death in sensitive individuals.

During the past year, DEQ worked with the Bannock Planning Organization, Idaho Transportation Department, EPA, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, City of Pocatello, City of Chubbuck, Bannock County, and the Portneuf Valley Airshed Advisory Group to complete the final components of a PM_{10} SIP. In June of 2004, the SIP maintenance plan, and redesignation request to EPA was submitted for review and approval. Once approved, this plan will demonstrate how the Portneuf Valley will attain and maintain the PM_{10} standard through 2020.

Control measures designed to protect air quality are being implemented by pollutant contributors across the valley. For the past two winters, air quality in the Portneuf Valley has been "good" for PM_{10} and no exceedances have been recorded.

A demonstration of effective cooperation

Protecting Water for Future Generations

Locals work together to protect their valuable natural resources

Plan Protects Coeur d'Alene Lake

Significant progress has been made to ensure that Coeur d'Alene Lake is protected for future generations. Coeur d'Alene Lake has been affected by years of mining in the area. Fortunately, the quality of the lake began to improve in the early 1970s, as a result of improvements in municipal wastewater treatment and forest and agricultural management practices. More recently, increased development is influencing the lake. The overall lake water quality is good, but there are areas of the lake that don't meet federal and state water quality criteria.

To address this concern, the *Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan* was developed to more effectively manage impacts to the lake. This plan was developed by DEQ; Shoshone, Kootenai, and Benewah Counties; the Coeur d'Alene Tribe; and other state, local, and federal agencies. The primary goal of the plan is to implement measures to protect Coeur d'Alene Lake and improve water quality to achieve compliance with federal and state water quality criteria. The plan was completed in 1995 and amended in 2003 to provide additional protective measures for the lake and better define agency roles and responsibilities in implementing those measures. The plan has not been finalized due to funding limitations. Implementation of the amended management plan will meet a requirement in the Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Record of Decision (ROD). The decision requires a better defined management approach to minimize the release of metals from lake sediment into the water that could occur if available oxygen in the lake were to decline significantly. To reduce the level of nutrients that enter the lake, the management plan is dependent upon the effective use of best management practices and implementation of an outreach program providing technical assistance. Monitoring will ensure long-term protection of the lake.

Protecting our natural treasures

Reducing Waste With Best Practices

Hospitals voluntarily address waste problems

Hospitals Partner for a Healthy Environment

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) is a voluntary program to help hospitals eliminate mercury and reduce the amount and toxicity of wastes they generate. The program is sponsored by the American Hospital Association, EPA, American Nurses Association, and Healthcare Without Harm.

DEQ supports and assists health care organizations in Idaho to reduce waste by:

- Providing technical support;
- Sharing best practices;
- Providing model plans for total waste management;
- Sharing resource directories;
- Developing case studies;
- Conducting site visits;
- Presenting information at local and regional meetings and conferences; and
- Hosting monthly H2E teleconferences (currently available in Boise).

During 2004, six Idaho hospitals joined H2E as partners, pledging to set and reach facility-specific waste reduction goals. The partner hospitals are Bonner General Hospital in Sandpoint, Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital in Boise, Eastern Idaho Medical Center in Idaho Falls, Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls, Mercy Medical Center in Nampa, and West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell.

Building alliance with industry

Encouraging Compliance With Assistance

Inspections, Permitting and Workshops

Compliance assistance is provided to communities, government agencies, and industry in Idaho through inspections, permit handoffs, and workshops to develop a better understanding of environmental regulations. It is believed that a thorough understanding of regulations will result in a cleaner environment.

Help is made available to Idaho businesses that are looking for ways to reduce or eliminate waste-generating activities and associated disposal costs. Highlighted below are some of the ways that compliance assistance is provided to communities, businesses, and other agencies:

- Compliance assistance inspections are available to regulated facilities. These inspections offer new businesses, or businesses with questions about environmental responsibilities, a mechanism to ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

- When a new permit is issued to a facility, an inspector and permit writer explain the expectations of the permit and provide an opportunity for questions.

- Workshops are conducted to educate and assist businesses, communities, and other agencies on complying with environmental regulations. The following are some of the workshops that have been conducted.
  - *Solvent Solutions 2004* – helps organizations and businesses properly manage and minimize the impacts of solvents.
  - *Air Permitting* – clarifies air quality regulations, permit requirements, and compliance strategies.

- Information is provided:
  - At tradeshows and through organization meetings,
  - To the regulated community on common compliance problems, and
  - On pollution prevention opportunities.

- Recognition awards are presented to facilities that meet environmental regulations.

- Usability and understandability of rules and permits are improved through clearer text, timely notice, and/or publication of new rules.

State Evaluation of Primacy

The Benefits of a State NPDES Program

The Idaho Environmental Common Sense Task Force, established by the Legislature, has routinely looked at environmental issues in Idaho. The task force has four legislative representatives, two from the House and two from the Senate. It also has representatives from industry, municipalities, counties, and environmental groups. Currently, the task force is looking at whether the state should seek primacy for administering the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. A steering committee has been evaluating the benefits of a state-run program, and the task force is reviewing those findings. Reasons cited in support of a state NPDES program include:

- Focusing on local considerations and solutions as well as local service delivery;
- Aligning permits with Idaho water quality standards;
- Providing flexible, innovative, and cost-effective methods to address future water quality issues;
- Integrating the TMDL program and the state grant and loan programs with the point source permitting program; and
- Streamlining Endangered Species Act processes so they no longer require permit-by-permit consultation.

The steering committee recommended developing draft legislation for the funding of one staff position to collect baseline information regarding a state-administered NPDES program. Based on the outcome of the evaluation, Idaho, with the support of stakeholders, will be better positioned to make a decision on seeking state primacy.

The purpose of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program is to protect human health and the environment. All entities discharging "pollutants" into waters of the United States must obtain a NPDES permit. These permits contain limits on what can be discharged and ensure that the discharges will not harm water quality or public health. NDPES permits in Idaho are currently issued by EPA.

Communities Working Collaboratively

Recovering the Stibnite Mine Area

By using $956,000 in Clean Water Act funding, many groups played an important role in the reclamation of a portion of the Stibnite area on the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and reduced contaminants in the North Fork of the Payette River. The groups involved include the communities of McCall and Yellow Pine, Idaho Fish and Game, a residential developer, and a sewer and water district.

The effort at Stibnite is focusing on the regeneration of topsoil and vegetation on mine and mill waste dumps. The primary ingredient for constructing topsoil, which is organic nutrients, is extremely limited near the site. So, DEQ looked to the local community for the necessary materials for soil building. These materials were found in the form of wastes that had been slated for disposal.

Soils conducive to plant growth are being created using waste materials. Plant growth will stabilize the soil, and, in turn, help to protect surface water quality and native fish populations by limiting sediment and contaminated run-off. Additionally, this will protect critical spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, steelhead, bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout.

Slash, or debris, piles from past timber harvests near Yellow Pine have been moved to Stibnite to provide shade to small plants trying to take hold in the mine tailings. The slash will also provide a long-term source for carbon in the developing soils. As the slash was originally intended to be burned, this effort has served the dual purpose of beneficial use at Stibnite as well as preventing air pollution that slash burning would have generated.

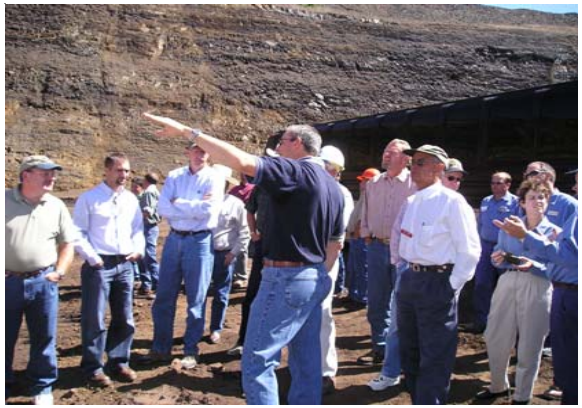
A residential development outside of McCall was going to send wood chips and topsoil to a local landfill. Instead, the material was used to develop vegetated islands that were strategically placed to prevent run-off from reaching surface waters. This kept the development from having to pay disposal costs and it helped to save valuable landfill space at the local solid waste landfill.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game was looking for a way to dispose of rough fish being removed from Lake Cascade. The fish were hauled to Stibnite and combined with other organic materials. This project, labeled the “fish and chips” project, is being used to demonstrate that composting of these types of wastes can effectively work in the high altitude climate at Stibnite.

Along with the City of McCall and the Payette Lake Sewer and Water District, DEQ is investigating using biosolids from the wastewater treatment plant in the compost mixture. This project is on hold, pending the outcome of the “fish and chips” project, obtaining permits from EPA, and approval from the Central District Health Department. If successful, the composting and disposal of biosolids at Stibnite will help to bring McCall’s wastewater treatment system into compliance and save the local community over $500,000.

Putting waste to beneficial use

The "Citizen Board"



The Board of Environmental Quality (Board) was created through legislation as a "citizen board." It is comprised of seven members who serve four-year terms and are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of our Governor with the consent of the Senate.

In addition to extensive knowledge and involvement in the air quality, solid waste and water quality areas, the seven members bring the following expertise to the Board:

- Many years of legal experience in business, general law, and environmental law;
- Doctorates in Inorganic Chemistry and Fish Pathology;
- Agricultural and Chemical Engineers;
- Public service in capacities such as a councilman, mayor, city attorney, and prosecuting attorney;
- Participation on boards, committees, commissions, associations, advisory groups, natural resource groups, and environmental groups; and
- Legislative career experience in environmental issues, rulemaking, and the legislative process.

The Board of Environmental Quality

Mandatory Duties:

- The Board is a rulemaking and advisory body that adopts, amends or repeals the rules, codes, and standards of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ/Department) with the direct purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Environmental Protection and Health Act.

- The Board hears and decides contested cases in which actions or inactions of the Director of DEQ are challenged.

Encouraging Public Input:

- Meetings of the Board are scheduled around the state on a bimonthly, or as-needed, basis. They are set to comply with the rulemaking schedule, contested cases, and issues around the state. The meeting sites are selected by the Board members and are open to the public.

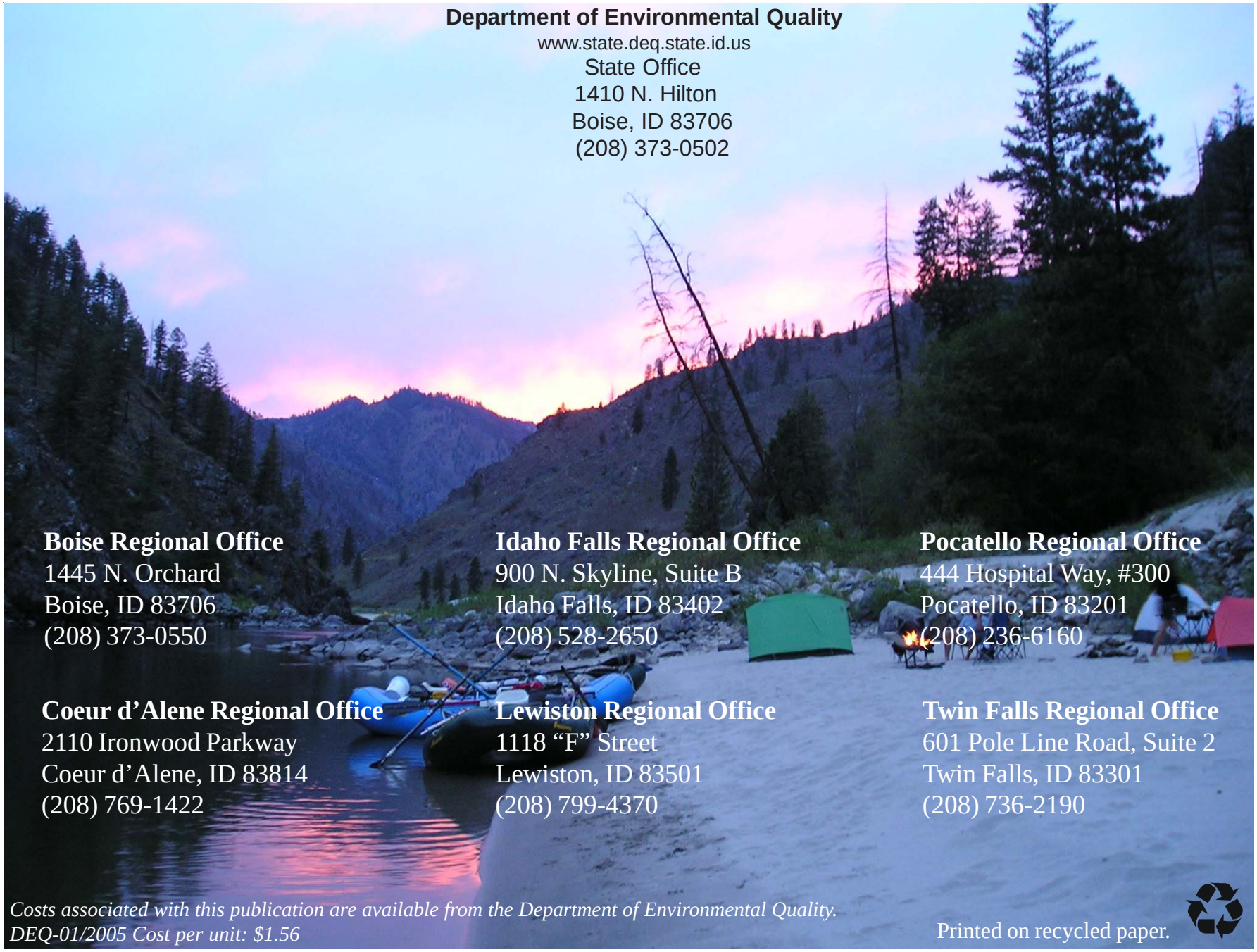
- About twice a year, the Board, in conjunction with a DEQ Regional Office, will conduct an educational tour of the region to learn about the environmental issues and concerns in the area. Local legislators, county commissioners, and local officials are invited to join the Board and staff on these learning opportunities. The tour locations are selected by the Board with input from Department staff and interested groups or individuals.

- At the beginning of each scheduled meeting, the Board allows up to 30 minutes for a Public Comment Period for citizens to address any subject not specifically shown on their agenda.

- The Board allows anyone to submit a request for an item to be placed on the agenda of the Board's next meeting.

- The Board sets aside time at the end of each meeting for members to present local views and environmental issues from their home locations.

- The director of the Department can request the Board to act in an advisory capacity to DEQ.



Department of Environmental Quality
www.state.deq.state.id.us
State Office
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0502

Boise Regional Office
1445 N. Orchard
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0550

Idaho Falls Regional Office
900 N. Skyline, Suite B
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 528-2650

Pocatello Regional Office
444 Hospital Way, #300
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208) 236-6160

Coeur d'Alene Regional Office
2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-1422

Lewiston Regional Office
1118 "F" Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-4370

Twin Falls Regional Office
601 Pole Line Road, Suite 2
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 736-2190

Costs associated with this publication are available from the Department of Environmental Quality.
DEQ-01/2005 Cost per unit: $1.56

Printed on recycled paper.